

commercial undertakings of the day. Organization and coöperation have become synonymous with progress and reform. . . .

*From an article on "Proprietary Medicines" by A. Jacobi, M. D., LL. D., New York.*

Goethe once said that the most interesting book that could be written would be a treatise on human errors. In that book, large like a library, the history of quackery—well meant or deceitful—would fill a large place. . . .

*From an article on "A Case of Pleural and Pericardial Effusion" by William Watt Kerr, M. A., M. B., San Francisco.*

Your committee on program requested me to read a paper before this society on some topic relating to pleural effusion, but further stipulated that my effusion should not occupy more than the space of fifteen minutes. . . .

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

By GILES S. PORTER, M. D.  
Director

**Presidential Address, Health Officers' Section, League of California Municipalities, Monterey, September 21, 1931.**—Public health conditions in California, generally, have been very good since the last meeting of this organization. We met last year in the midst of an extensive outbreak of *acute epidemic poliomyelitis*. Fortunately, this year we are escaping the outbreak of this disease which is sweeping through eastern and middle western states. We have nothing new to present in the control of this disease. Prompt discovery of cases, isolation, complete rest in bed and immediate administration of serum still constitute our most effective weapons in dealing with poliomyelitis. The amount of residual paralysis following last season's outbreak in California was not so extensive as believed at first. Surveys made under the provisions of the so-called Crippled Children's Act have brought to light many cases of paralysis and muscle weakness which have been placed under treatment. This Act is a valuable piece of legislation and you will learn more of its operation at a coming session of this convention. The contrast between 449 cases of epidemic poliomyelitis reported in July of 1930, against twenty-four cases reported in July of 1931, is very great. Next year we may not be so fortunate. It is very important that health officers be alert to discover cases of this disease that may occur during the late winter and spring. Very often an increased prevalence at this season of the year is a forerunner of what is to come in late summer and fall and thorough reporting of cases is particularly valuable in determining an index. The general public justifiably fears this disease—more, perhaps, than any other, and we have certain responsibilities in providing as full and complete information relative to its prevalence and control as may be available.

*Smallpox* has almost disappeared from the state. There were but twenty-eight cases of this disease reported last month, but in January of the present year there were 457 such cases reported. There is nothing new to be said regarding the control of this disease. It is an axiom that smallpox does not become epidemic in a community 50 per cent of whose residents have been successfully vaccinated. Health officers who are fortunate in having sufficient funds to provide equipment and personnel for this work are able to keep their communities free from smallpox epidemics.

Not a single case of *human plague* has occurred in California since September 1928. This provides no excuse for not maintaining a close watch on this disease, however. Infected rodents are discovered with

considerable regularity and sooner or later cases in human beings are liable to occur. I would ask health officers to watch particularly for pneumonia, and especially groups of pneumonia cases that may be suspicious of plague. When this disease appears it is liable to sneak in the back door and whether it appears in its bubonic, pneumonic or septicemic form we must be alert to detect it.

*Epidemic meningitis* has not caused as much trouble as it did two and three years ago, but the status of the disease is such that great vigilance is required in its control. We have been spared, recently, the risk of cases of this disease that might be imported from Oriental ports. There is no doubt, however, that we always have a certain number of carriers of this disease in our midst and there is a possibility that carriers among Filipinos and other Orientals play some rôle in the transmission of the disease among the general population.

*Typhoid fever* remains in a nominal state of control. With a typhoid death rate of less than two per 100,000 population we may well be proud of our record in subduing this disease. When the problems involved in ditch water, irrigation canals, and stream pollution are considered, we may well wonder that we have been able to obtain so low a typhoid death rate. If we were able to solve these problems definitely, it is probably that we might achieve a death rate of less than one per 100,000 population.

*Measles*, during the past year, has ridden on its periodical high wave. In April of this year 7372 cases of the disease were reported in California. It has now dropped to 197 cases reported last month. There have been more than 27,000 cases reported this year, which number is not as high as has occurred in many preceding waves.

*Diphtheria*, during the past year, has been on good behavior. The extension of immunization programs has been a factor in this, but not the only factor. As time goes on we come to the realization that the control of diphtheria is dependent upon many factors and that cases of this disease will occur in spite of our efforts to control it. Treatment, the use of virulence tests and careful supervision of patients are also important factors in the prevention of diphtheria. Immunization is a most valuable procedure, but along with it there must be the continued exercise of old stand-by control measures. No plan for diphtheria control is complete without the employment of a small arsenal of weapons.

*Scarlet fever*, in mild form generally, has been quite prevalent during the past year. The same is true of whooping-cough. It is unfortunate that the mothers of very young children are not better informed relative to the great danger involved in the contraction of whooping-cough. It would seem that educational work in checking whooping-cough among very young children may be one of our greatest opportunities to save infant lives. In 1930, 198 children in California died of whooping-cough, and 185, or 93.4 per cent, of them were under four years of age. Health centers and clinics might well concentrate on the problems presented by this disease which takes so many young lives.

Nine cases of *relapsing fever* have been reported in California this year and five such cases were reported in 1930. All of them occurred in certain mountain counties of both northern and southern California. Sources of infection for some of these cases were in other neighboring states. With the assistance of Dr. K. F. Meyer, consultant to the State Department of Public Health, and Professor W. B. Herms of the University of California, intensive investigations into this disease as it appears in California, have been undertaken. Definite conclusions relative to the vector involved in the transmission of the disease have not been determined, but it is probably one of the *ornithodoros* ticks. This disease was made reportable in California July 11, 1931. Cases occur generally in June, July, and August, but they may appear in September as well as earlier in the season. The State Department of Public Health

and Doctor Meyer would appreciate an immediate report of any cases that may be suspicious of this disease.

**Certification of Laboratories in California.**—Dr. Wilfred H. Kellogg, Chief of the Bureau of Laboratories of the State Department of Public Health, has written an article entitled "The Certification of Laboratories in California" which is printed in the September issue of the *American Journal of Public Health*.

The development of the plan for the certification of laboratories in this State has attracted a great deal of attention throughout western states, and it is believed that many other states throughout the country will adopt similar plans within their respective public health organizations.

**Changes of Health Officers.**—Avalon, Los Angeles County, is now under the supervision of the Los Angeles County Health Department.

Dr. J. H. Hutton has been appointed health officer of Calipatria to succeed Dr. H. J. Havalick.

Willow Glen, Santa Clara County, has come under the supervision of the Santa Clara County Health Department.

Dr. Henry S. Rogers succeeds Dr. G. R. Hubbell as health officer of Petaluma.

**Two Children Die of Rabies.**—During the month of May two California children died of rabies, one in Los Angeles and the other in Fresno County. The wounds were not cauterized following the dog bites. The Los Angeles child was bitten April 21. The eyelid was lacerated and there was also a deep laceration on the forehead, but the eyeball was not injured. The antirabic treatment was started April 25, but symptoms developed May 12 and death followed the next day. The dog which bit the child was proven rabid and Negri bodies were demonstrated in the child's brain. The Fresno County child was bitten April 12 on the face. Antirabic treatment was started April 17, but symptoms of the disease developed May 11 and death occurred on the 15th. The dog which bit this child was killed by people in the neighborhood and the head was not submitted for examination.

## BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M. D.  
Secretary

### Results of Board of Medical Examiners' Examination San Francisco, July 7-9, 1931

Charles B. Pinkham, M. D., secretary-treasurer of the Board of Medical Examiners of the State of California, reports the results of the written examination held in San Francisco, July 7 to 9 inclusive. The examination covered nine subjects and included ninety questions. An average of 75 per cent is required to pass. An allowance of one per cent added to the general average is permitted by the Medical Practice Act for each year of medical practice, provided the applicant has not received less than 60 per cent in more than one subject.

A total of 131 graduates of medical schools wrote the examination, of whom 126 passed and 5 failed. The percentage of failures (3.8 per cent) was the lowest recorded for several years and indicated the high standard of our modern medical schools.

The following colleges were represented:

College	PASSED	Year of Graduation	Per Cent
College of Medical Evangelists.....	(1931)	87 7/9, 81 8/9	87 6/9, 88 6/9
Creighton University School of Medicine	(1931)	86 3/9, 81 2/9	80 6/9, 84 5/9, 77 8/9, 79 5/9, 88 4/9, 80 4/9

Jefferson Medical College.....	(1930)	82 4/9
Loyola University School of Medicine	(1931)	85 5/9
McGill University Faculty of Medicine	(1930)	84, 84 5/9, 87 1/9
Northwestern University Medical School	(1930)	82 8/9, 82 2/9
86; (1931) 84 3/9, 90 7/9, 82 7/9, 85 2/9, 83 4/9, 87 4/9		
Rush Medical College.....	(1921) 79 7/9; (1931)	86 4/9
Stanford University Medical School.....	(1930) 87; (1931)	86 3/9
86 8/9, 90 4/9, 89 1/9, 88, 88 2/9, 88 5/9, 89 7/9, 83 8/9		
85 3/9, 86 5/9, 85 4/9, 86 3/9, 87 5/9, 89 4/9, 84 6/9, 84 6/9		
79 8/9, 89 2/9, 84, 86 3/9, 88 6/9, 83 6/9, 85 1/9, 89 4/9		
84 8/9, 82 3/9, 87, 83 8/9, 89 7/9, 88 2/9, 89 4/9, 85 2/9		
84 7/9, 87 6/9, 91 5/9, 83 2/9, 84, 85 3/9		
Tulane University School of Medicine.....	(1931)	85 7/9
University of California Medical School	(1931)	80 5/9, 88 2/9
93 5/9, 90 5/9, 87 7/9, 87 5/9, 90 8/9, 84 3/9, 82 6/9, 88		
88 6/9, 82 5/9, 80 1/9, 79, 89 6/9, 86 7/9, 85 4/9, 80 5/9		
89 2/9, 85 4/9, 88, 83 8/9, 91 7/9, 86 2/9, 77 8/9, 84 2/9		
89 6/9, 91 8/9, 88 8/9, 86 5/9, 87 4/9, 82 8/9, 88 2/9, 85 5/9		
85 7/9, 83 2/9, 85 6/9, 87, 83, 84 5/9, 85 2/9, 92, 85 1/9		
76 6/9, 86 2/9, 83, 87 5/9, 87 3/9, 79 8/9, 85 2/9, 85		
University of Illinois, College of Medicine	(1931)	86 1/9
University of Minnesota Medical School	(1928)	81 7/9; (1930) 84 7/9
University of Pennsylvania, School of Medicine	(1929)	82 2/9
University of Rochester Medical School	(1929)	91 6/9; (1930) 77 3/9

#### FAILED

Bordeaux (France) Faculty of Medicine	(1930)	65 8/9
Creighton University School of Medicine	(1930) 67 5/9; (1931)	74 7/9
University of Amsterdam (Holland).....	(1901)	85 2/9
University of Tomsk (Russia).....	(1913)	64

### State Board News Items, November 1931

On September 25, 1931, the Appellate Court, Northern Division, rendered an opinion (67 California Appellate 60) sustaining the Board of Medical Examiners in its revocation of the license of Pearl J. Anderson, based on a charge of aiding and abetting an unlicensed practitioner named Clodine Brown, then alleged to be operating the S. J. Bridge Cancer Cure, Majestic Theater Building, Los Angeles.

"A movement by the San Joaquin and other chapters of the California Association of Chiropractors to permit patients in public hospitals to be treated by chiropractors if they desire has resulted in official negotiations toward that end by the California State Board of Chiropractic Examiners..." (Stockton Record, September 30, 1931).

"The state has the right to enact a statute prohibiting the use of the initials 'M. D.' after the name of any person who shall not have been admitted to practice medicine within the state, according to a decision by the Appellate Department of the Superior Court today. The decision, written by Presiding Judge Victor R. McLucas and concurred in by Judge Leon R. Yankwich, upheld the conviction of Orin Joslin for holding himself out as a physician and using the M. D. after his name..." (Los Angeles Herald, October 15, 1931).

"Unearthing what they believed was a scheme to prey upon wealthy women by prescribing narcotics for them in the guise of a harmless prescription, police and federal officers today broke into the hotel room of Henry Miller, thirty-seven, at 6370 Lexington Avenue, and arrested him on felony charges of violation of the State Medical and Poison Acts. The raiders confiscated alleged forged membership cards of the California State and Los Angeles County Medical Associations, asserted forged narcotic prescriptions, two vials of morphin and heroin tablets and a complete hypodermic set. According to Narcotic Inspector Moody and Policemen Maney, Bailey, Christopher, and Edmonds, Miller, under the name of Dr. E. N. Young, M. D., forged stolen narcotic prescriptions and obtained morphin, a quarter of a grain of which he placed in otherwise harmless powder,